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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-second session

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME HELD AT GENEVA ON 26 JUNE 1992

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION		
	A. Background	1 - 2	1
	B. Representation on the Committee	3 - 8	1
II.	GENERAL	9	2
III.	DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE		3
	Decision on the 1992 General Programmes target	10	3
	Decision on Administrative and Financial Matters	11	3
	Applications by Government Observer delegations to participate in the work of the Sub-Committees and informal sessions of the Executive Committee of UNHCR in 1992	12	4

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. The meeting of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme covered by this report was convened briefly on 26 June 1992 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva by His Excellency Ambassador Bernard de Riedmatten (Switzerland), at the request of the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters, His Excellency Ambassador Juan Archibaldo Lanus (Argentina), to act upon recommendations presented in an oral report made by Ambassador Lanus on the work of the Sub-Committee.

2. In that report, delivered during an informal portion of the meeting earlier in the day, Ambassador Lanus conveyed the following three recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters requiring a formal decision of the Executive Committee:

a) At its 22 June meeting, UNHCR informed the Sub-Committee that the recently concluded Annual Programme review had confirmed new needs under the Annual Programme, most importantly for Africa. Following a thorough review of the justifications invoked for the proposed upward revision, the Sub-Committee recommended that the Executive Committee approve an increase in the General Programmes Target for 1992 from $ 373,054,800 to $ 386,443,000;

b) On 15 April and again on 22 June, the Sub-Committee also thoroughly analysed a proposal by UNHCR to reclassify four posts from the D.1 to the D.2 level, thereby increasing the number of D.2 posts from 12 to 16 and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the proposed reclassification;

c) Finally, the Sub-Committee recommended approval of the applications of Ghana and Rwanda to be Government Observer delegations for participation in the Sub-Committees of the Whole on International Protection and Administrative and Financial Matters, as well as in the Informal Meetings of the Executive Committee in 1992.

B. Representation on the Committee

3. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Holy See, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

4. The Governments of the following States were present as observers:

Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, El Salvador, India, Iraq, Ireland, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay.

5. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

International Organization for Migration.

6. At the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters held on 22 June 1992, a point of order was raised concerning the status of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and its participation in meetings of the Executive Committee.

7. The representative of the United States of America indicated that his Government does not consider Serbia/Montenegro to be the continuation of, or the sole successor to, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and believes that it is not entitled to assume that seat in international organizations. The representatives of Australia, Austria and Norway (speaking on behalf of the Nordic Countries) and the Observer of Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States) reserved the positions of their Governments, indicating that they had not accepted the automatic continuity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations, including the United Nations, and that the presence of Yugoslavia was without prejudice to further decisions on its status to be taken within the framework of the Security Council and the General Assembly. In reply, the representative of Yugoslavia recalled the declaration made by her Government on 27 April 1992. She emphasized that her Government had committed itself to all its obligations under various international instruments and had indicated its intention to continue membership in all international organizations, including UNHCR. She voiced her strong objection to the raising of this question in a purely humanitarian forum.

8. In settling the point of order, it was decided that, pending a resolution of the matter in the Credentials Committee of the Security Council and other relevant organs, the positions of the different delegations would be reflected in the reports of the meetings of the Executive Committee and its Sub-Committees during the week of 22 to 26 June 1992.

II. GENERAL

9. A full account of the deliberations of the Committee, including the introductory remarks of the Chairman under each agenda item, is contained in the Summary Records of the meeting issued as A/AC.96/SR.471.

III. DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Decision on the 1992 General Programmes Target

10. The Executive Committee,

Having reviewed the information contained in the "Update of UNHCR Expenditure, Funding and the Staffing Situation" (EC/SC.2/1992/CRP.12),

Having taken note of the oral progress report on the work of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters at its meeting on 22 June 1992,

Noting the increase in the number and complexity of new refugee situations in various parts of the world and the added burden that these pose for the international community, especially for refugee-hosting countries,

Recalling the need for UNHCR to respond to these new situations in an expeditious but well programmed manner, bearing in mind the budgetary restraints imposed by the financial resources available to address these new situations,

(a) Approves the revised 1992 General Programmes target of $ 386,443,200;

(b) Notes with appreciation the continued strong donor support to UNHCR in 1992, and calls upon donors to consider urgently additional contributions to ensure the timely and full funding of activities now programmed for 1992, especially the increased requirements under General Programmes, as well as the various Special Programmes, in particular those offering durable solutions through voluntary repatriation.

Decision on Administrative and Financial Matters

11. The Executive Committee,

Having reviewed the documentation related to human resources management and administration (EC/SC.2/1991/CRP.16; EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.2; EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.11) and the related comments on these issues as contained in the oral progress report on the work of the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters at its meeting on 22 June 1992,

(a) Requests the High Commissioner to pursue her efforts to elaborate a human-resource development strategy along the broad lines set out in EC/1992/SC.2/CRP.2;

(b) Underlines the importance of maintaining the existing dialogue between staff and management on these issues;

(c) Expresses no objection in principle to the upgrading of four D.1 posts to the D.2 level, and bearing in mind the ACABQ comments on this issue, asks, in particular, that the High Commisssioner pursue practical measures

aimed at a coherent and practical policy for the proper grading of posts at Headquarters and in the field, and that she report by the forty-fourth session of the Executive Committee on the steps taken to implement these measures and the comments of the ACABQ thereon;

(d) Requests the High Commissioner to inform the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters how best UNHCR might flexibly deploy its senior management resources in the light of changing refugee needs and how it proposes to enhance further the level of skills required of senior management, including possible recourse to external recruitment;

(e) Asks that the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters look into the issue of Headquarters/field staff ratio and related questions such as the need to ensure adequate devolution of authority to the field, while maintaining the appropriate level of management and budgetary controls at Headquarters that befit an organization that has to respond rapidly to changing regional and global refugee situations.

Applications by Government Observer delegations to participate in the work of the Sub-Committees and informal sessions of the Executive Committee of UNHCR in 1992

12. The Executive Committee,

Recalling the decision of its thirty-ninth session in 1988, reflected in A/AC.96/710, to open the sessions of its two Sub-Committees and Informal Meetings to participation as Observers by States Members of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies who are not members of the Executive Committee,

Approves applications by the following Government Observer delegations for participation in the Sub-Committees of the Whole on International Protection and Administrative and Financial Matters, as well as in the Informal Meetings of the Executive Committee in 1992: Ghana and Rwanda.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-third session

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

2. Election of Officers

3. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

4. General debate

5. (a) Review of UNHCR programmes financed by voluntary funds in 1991-1992; adoption of the 1993 General Programmes and budget

   (b) Status of contributions and overall financial requirements for 1992 and 1993

   (c) Administration and management

6. Consideration of the provisional agenda of the forty-fourth session of the Executive Committee

7. Any other business

8. Adoption of the draft report of the forty-third session

9. Closing of the session

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